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PATENT  
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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I hereby certify that I have information and a reasonable basis for belief that this correspondence will be deposited as first-class mail with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on November 8, 1999.

Key Ziegler  
Signature

11-8-99  
Date

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

Richardson, et al.

Serial No.: 08/877,738

Filed: June 17, 1997

Invention: Drilling Method and Apparatus

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Group No.: 3672

Examiner: Schoeppel, Roger

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**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JULY 7, 1999  
AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 7, 1999, the applicant submits  
this response.

**Petition for Extension of Time**

The applicant petitions for a one-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R.

1.136 up to and including November 8, 1999. Applicant notes that November 7, 1999 was a Sunday.

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